



The Labor Advocate

The Labor Community's Source for Department of Labor News

Volume 1, Issue 1

Winter 2003



Happy Holidays!

Inside this issue:

<i>Wage Determinations Go Online</i>	2
<i>Labor Day With Operating Engineers</i>	2
<i>Centennial Unions Honored</i>	3
<i>Employer Financial Reports Now Online</i>	3
<i>Ground Zero Documentary Premieres</i>	4
<i>Paul Hall and Steve Young Honored</i>	4

Strong Economic News

- 328,000 new jobs created (Aug.-Nov. 2003)
- Most robust four-month job growth record since Sept.-Dec. 2000
- Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increased at an annual rate of 8.2% in the third quarter of 2003, the fastest pace since 1984
- Construction gained 10,000 jobs in Nov. 2003, the ninth consecutive increase
- Construction has gained 156,000 jobs from Feb.-Nov. 2003

Labor Laws Enforced At Record Levels

The Department of Labor announced good news for America's workers at a November 17 news conference. DOL's tough, targeted enforcement policy has yielded record-breaking results for America's workers. They are safer and are receiving more back wages—including overtime pay—than ever before.

The result of these efforts is enhanced worker protection. For example, in 2002, the number of workplace fatalities fell by 6.6% and the rate of fatal injuries in the workplace

fell from 4.3 to 4.0 per 100,000 workers, both of which are the lowest figures ever recorded. Fatal work injuries among Hispanic workers, which had been rising every year since 1995, were down by 6% in 2002. This improvement resulted from

better enforcement, compliance assistance and an emphasis on accountability and results.

In FY 2003, OSHA conducted 39,817 inspections—a nearly 6% increase over FY 2002. The number of OSHA inspections has increased every year during the Bush Administration.

In FY 2003, EBSA criminal investigations resulted in the indictment of 137 plan officials, corporate officers, union representatives, and service providers for offenses related to employee health and pension plans.

(Continued on page 2)



Secretary Chao at Enforcement Press Conference (DOL Photo)

Administration Stands Up For Fair Trade

The Bush Administration is committed to trade laws that provide a level playing field for America's workers and understands that a full economic recovery means that the manufacturing

sector must do better.

The Bush Administration is committed to trade laws that provide a level playing field for America's workers

On November 17, the Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA) voted to invoke safeguard relief on three textile products (knit fabric,

(Continued on page 2)

...Record-Breaking Enforcement Numbers

(Continued from page 1)

Fatalities in all mines decreased by 14% from FY 2002 to FY 2003, and by 31% between FY 2000 and FY 2003. Total mining injuries fell by 13% from FY 2002 to FY 2003 and by 25% since FY 2000. From FY 2000 to FY 2003, total enforcement site events increased by 19%.

Total back wages collected for workers in FY 2003 increased by 21% over FY 2002, from \$175.6 million to \$212.5 million—an 11-year record. The number of workers who received back wages in FY

2003 increased by nearly 30% over FY 2002, from 263,593 workers to 342,358.

Secretary Chao noted that behind every enforcement statistic and legal action is a person who needs the Department of Labor's help. The Department's enforcement data demonstrates how seriously this Administration takes its commitment to promote the safety and security of America's workers and their benefits.

FY2003 Enforcement Data

- Number of workplace fatalities and rate of fatal injuries are at the lowest recorded level—ever
- Fatal injuries among Hispanic workers, which had been rising each year since 1995, fell by 6% in 2002
- Mining injuries declined by 25% and fatalities in all mines fell by 31% since FY 2000
- Number of OSHA inspections and citations *continued* to rise
- \$212.5 million in back wages collected—a 21% increase and 11-year record high
- Number of workers receiving back wages increased by nearly 30% over FY 2002
- Record \$1.4 billion in health and pension assets protected—a 60% increase over FY 2002

Wage Determinations Go Online

The DOL recently announced the official launch of the new Wage Determination Online (WDOL) program. The WDOL program at www.wdol.gov will provide the federal contracting community and the general public with

easy access to the wage determinations required on most federal or federally funded construction contracts and on most federal service contracts.

WDOL... will provide... ready access to wage determinations required on most federal or federally funded construction contracts.

WDOL is a milestone towards

accomplishing President George W. Bush's vision for E-Government, which will make it easier for citizens to obtain services from and to interact with the federal government. It will also improve government efficiency and effectiveness, and responsiveness to citizens. Access is open to the entire federal contracting community and the general public.

...Fair Trade Policy Is A Must

(Continued from page 1)

dress gowns and robes, and bras) imported to the U.S. from China following petitions filed by the U.S. textile industry.

The petitions were filed by the in-

dustry under a special provision of China's WTO accession agreement that allows the U.S. (and other WTO members) to impose temporary quotas on textile imports from China in the event those imports are found to cause "market disruption."

CITA is chaired by the U.S. Commerce Department and includes the Departments of Labor, State, and Treasury and the U.S. Trade Representative.

President Bush, Secretary Chao Spend Labor Day With Operating Engineers

On Labor Day, President George W. Bush and Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao visited the new training facility of International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Local 18 in Richfield, Ohio. IUOE President Frank Hanley introduced President Bush to the thousands of workers and their families who were in attendance.

President Hanley said, "It is an honor to have President Bush spend this day honoring America's workers with the men and women of the IUOE. His visit to our Local 18's training center is most

appropriate because it is the skilled craftsmen and women of the Operating Engineers who build



President George W. Bush, IUOE President Frank Hanley, and Secretary Elaine L. Chao greet Operating Engineers on Labor Day (White House Photo)

America's critical infrastructure, and who keep it up and running on a daily basis for the benefit of all U. S. citizens."

Also in attendance were Fraternal Order of Police National President Chuck Canterbury, IUOE Local 18 General Vice President and Business Manager Jim Gardner, Ohio Governor Bob Taft, and Ohio Senators George Voinovich and Mike DeWine.

Centennial Unions Honored

On September 5th, Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao honored the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the Laborers' International Union of North America, the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Asbestos Workers, and the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association for 100 years of service to their members.

Teamsters President James Hoffa, Laborers President Terence O'Sullivan, Asbestos Workers President James Grogan, and Rural Letter Carriers President Dale Holton each made remarks and received the award on behalf of their members. Hundreds of union members were in attendance for this special tribute.



NRLCA President Dale Holton, Asbestos Workers President Jim Grogan, Secretary Chao, Teamsters President James Hoffa, and Laborers President Terence O'Sullivan (DOL Photo)

Employer Financial Reports Now Online

The Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959 (LMRDA), as amended, requires that employers file annual reports to disclose certain financial dealings with their employees, unions, union agents, and labor relations consult-

ants. The Department of Labor requires that employers file LM-10 employer reports, and those reports can now be reviewed online by the general public at <http://www.dol.gov/esa/regs/compliance/olms/rrlo/lmrda.htm>.

The LMRDA also requires the filing of an Agreement and Activities Report, Form LM-20, by every person, including a labor relations consultant, who enters into an arrangement with

(Continued on page 4)

Ground Zero Documentary Premieres

On September 9th, the U.S. Department of Labor and the Smithsonian's National Museum for American History premiered *Up From Zero*, a documentary that Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao commissioned to honor and commemorate the skill, courage, and patriotism of the workers at Ground Zero.

This documentary is a

tribute to the brave men and women of the New York City building trades who worked tirelessly for



Secretary Chao and Father Brian Jordan, the Ground Zero Chaplain, speak at the premiere (DOL Photo)

nine months after September 11—to reclaim Ground Zero. They showed the world the best our country has to offer and reaffirmed our faith in our freedoms, our country and

ourselves. It is a tribute to their courage and skill that they completed the job ahead of schedule and without serious injuries.

Secretary Chao was inspired to commission this documentary after she visited Ground Zero in October 2001 and met the men and women who worked there. *Up From Zero* memorializes the patriotism, skill, and strength that Secretary Chao saw in these workers. If you would like a copy of the *Up From Zero* DVD, you may order one free of charge at <http://www.dol.gov/opa/dvd>.

...LM-10, LM-20, LM-21 Reports Now Online

(Continued from page 3)

an employer under which he or she undertakes activities where an object is, directly or indirectly:

- to persuade employees about exercising their rights to organize and bargain collectively, or
- to supply an employer with information about the activities of employees or a union in connection with a labor dispute involving

the employer.

Furthermore, every person required to file an LM-20 must also file an annual Receipts and Disbursements Report, Form LM-21, if any payments were

made or received during the fiscal year as a result of arrangements of the kind requiring the Form LM-20.

LM-10 employer reports...can now be reviewed online by the general public.

The LM-10, LM-20 and LM-21 Forms may all be reviewed by the general public at <http://www.dol.gov/esa/regs/compliance/olms/r10/lmrda.htm>.

Paul Hall, Steve Young Named To Labor Hall of Fame

On October 1, Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao inducted former Seafarers President Paul Hall, former Fraternal Order of Police National President Steve Young, and Hershey Foods founder Milton Hershey into the Department's Labor Hall of Fame. This is an honor re-

served to individuals who make historic contributions to improving the quality of life for working men and women and their families. Previous inductees include Lane Kirkland, Samuel Gompers, and the September 11th Rescue Workers.

At the 15th Annual Induction Ceremonies, Secretary Chao added Presidents Hall and Young and Mr. Hershey to a very prestigious and permanent exhibition at the Department of Labor. Secretary Chao stated, "The leaders we honor today were vision-

(Continued on page 5)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

200 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20210

Phone: 202-693-6000

Fax: 202-693-6145

Web: <http://www.dol.gov/opa/laboradvocate>



United States Department of Labor

Visit us on the Web:
<http://www.dol.gov>

Reemployment Rights For Returning Service Members

Thousands of reservists and members of the National Guard answered our country's call. Now they're starting to come back from their mission.



(DOL Photo)

A law called USERRA requires that an eligible service member be reemployed in the job that he or she would have held (or a comparable position) if not for the absence for military service. If you need to know more about this law, call us at 1-866-4-USA-DOL. Our service members did their job — now let's do ours!



(DOL Photo)



(DOL Photo)

...Seafarers, Police Leaders Honored

(Continued from page 4)

aries of courage, conviction who had a sense of service. Their ideals made a positive and lasting impact in improving the lives of working Americans—not only here in America but all around the world.”

Paul Hall was the second president of the SIU and was known as the “The Father of the American Merchant Marine” for his role in the passage of the landmark Merchant Marine Act of 1970. At the ceremony, Seafarers President Michael Sacco remarked on the accomplishments of Hall.



Sec. Chao with SIU Pres. Mike Sacco
(DOL Photo)

In January 2003, the nation lost one of its finest with the passing of Fraternal Order of Police National President Steve Young. He cared about his rank and file, and he never forgot where he came from and who he represented. FOP National President Chuck Canterbury provided remarks about Young and concluded by reading a letter from U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft.

Milton Hershey was a visionary and a friend of working men and women. At age 18, Hershey opened his first candy store, which grew into the

world's largest chocolate manufacturing plant. During the Great Depression, he was instrumental in keeping his employees at work, as he built hotels, offices and schools for children in the town that now bears his name.

These three men were leaders of courage who fought passionately for the dignity of all workers. Each in his own way broke new ground for all of us, and in the process made tremendous contributions to our workforce, our country and the future of freedom itself.